

## BOOK REVIEW

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### A Review of "Drugs: Annotated Bibliography and Guide"

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REFERENCE: Ajami, A. M., *Drugs: Annotated Bibliography and Guide*, G. K. Hall & Co., Boston, 1973, 205 pages, price not listed.

This book will prove to be a useful addition to the libraries of those who are very interested, but not formally trained, in the area of drugs and their effects, uses, and mis-uses.

The 205 pages of the book include an index of drug-related journals and periodicals, four chapters with many sections, two appendices, a subject index, and an author index.

A total of 529 references are cited and annotated in an interesting fashion. The references and annotations, usually three or four per page, have the appearance of a library card catalog file. This allows for quick and easy scanning by the reader.

The scope of this book is certainly not meant to be an all-embracing treatise on drugs. Rather, its stated purpose is to serve as a short yet comprehensive core bibliography intended to help channel the intellectual needs and interest of a variety of readers through the staggering abundance of scientific, sociological, and cultural studies of drugs. The author has attempted to reflect the views of those scientists whose work in pharmacology and the drug culture is most often quoted by others. Obviously, this method of selection of references has its limitations. On the other hand, it is useful if one keeps in mind that this book is meant to be a teaching bibliography designed to stimulate thought and discussion.

Chapter I, "Drugs in Physiological Psychology," reviews articles relating to the chemistry of the central nervous system. Chapter II, "Pharmacology: The Study of Drugs," cites references relating to the physical and chemical properties of drugs, modes of action, medical and nonmedical uses, and some dangers of those drugs most frequently consumed throughout the present world. Chapter III, "Drugs in Society," is primarily devoted to statistics concerning drug use and misuse and offers some sociopolitical explanations for this phenomenon. The final chapter, "Cultural and Philosophic Overviews: The Drug Experience," examines references dealing with both the positive and negative philosophic implications of the drug experience and culture.

Summarily, for the initiate who wishes to know more about "the drug scene," but knows not where to start, this book will be of value as a reference guide. Those formally trained in the area of pharmacology and toxicology will find the book of limited value, but interesting to read.

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